

### **REMARKS**

The foregoing amendment amends claim 1 and cancels claim 2. Now pending in the application are claims 1 and 3-5, of which claims 1, 3 and 4 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

#### **Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement for the Examiner's consideration.

#### **Patentable Subject Matter**

Claims 3-5 are indicated to recite patentable subject matter.

#### **Claim Amendments**

Applicants amend claim 1 to clarify the scope of the claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 2. Claim 2 is subsequently canceled. No new matter is added.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,396,282 ("Minuth") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,417 ("Lau"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a communication system utilizing two-wire transmission lines. The communication system includes a plurality of nodes respectively connected to the two-wire transmission lines. Each of the nodes has a low pass filter connected to the transmission lines, and two terminating resistors respectively connected to the transmission lines

via the low pass filter. The terminating resistors includes a first terminating resistor for supplying a first predetermined potential to one of the two-wire transmission lines and a second terminating resistor for supplying *a second predetermined potential different from the first predetermined potential* to the other of the two-wire transmission lines. Claim 2 is canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. Applicants submit that Minuth and Lau fail to teach or suggest two terminating resistors respectively connected to the transmission lines via the low pass filter, including a first terminating resistor for supplying a first predetermined potential to one of the two-wire transmission lines and a second terminating resistor for supplying *a second predetermined potential different from the first predetermined potential* to the other of the two-wire transmission lines, as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner recognizes in the Office Action that Minuth fails to teach or suggest this limitation. The Examiner cites Lau to compensate for the deficiencies of Minuth. Applicants, however, submit that Lau does not teach or suggest this patentable feature of the claimed invention. Lau teaches an electronic apparatus containing transmitter circuitry and being capable of transmitting data at two or more different data rates. As depicted in Figs. 1 and 2b, Lau teaches that the transmission and reception paths include lines (+) and (-) that are biased in DC to *a common potential* ( $V_{LL}$ ) via resistors RB+ and RB-, respectively. Otherwise, Lau can not provide the lines (+) and (-) with a fixed potential through the capacitors CR+, CR- and CF, as depicted in Fig. 2b. Furthermore, Lau teaches that the resistors RD+ and RD- and RE+ and RE- have the same resistance values, respectively, as shown in the table at column 12. Lau therefore does not teach or suggest that the transmission lines are differently biased, as recited in the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing claim amendments and arguments, Applicants submit that Minuth and Lau fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 1. Applicants therefore request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and pass amended claim 1 to allowance.

Application No.: 09/618848  
Group Art Unit: 2637

Docket No.: FAC-001RCE

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. FAC-001RCE from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By David R. Burns

David R. Burns

Registration No.: 46,590

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 227-7400

(617) 742-4214 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant